

Remarks

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1 and 21 have been amended.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 has been amended to address the Examiner's rejections. The applicants note that by changing the term "at least one" to "a" the applicants do not intend to further limit claim 1 and "a" should be given its normal meaning, i.e., one or more. The applicants respectfully submit that these amendments in no way change the scope of coverage of claim 1. Additionally, claim 21 has been amended to address a lack of antecedent basis for the term "the data communication".

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gustafsson in view of Kihara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,236,475 (Kihara). The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Gustafsson and Kihara taken alone or in combination neither teach nor suggest a method for producing holographic stereograms including:

acquiring image data at a data acquisition station having a data acquisition processor that receives image data based on the source material and a customer-based preview processor that displays a representation of the hologram for viewing by the customer;

delivering the image data to an image processing station having an image processor operable to generate hogel data based on image data received from the data acquisition station;

as required by independent claim 17.

Although the Examiner refers to various portions of Gustafsson's "4. SPECIFICATION OF THE END USER INTERFACE" with respect to the claimed "acquiring image data . . . ," the Examiner points to nothing in Gustafsson teaching or suggesting that the image data is based on "the [customer-provided] source material," as required by claim 17. The relevant portion of Gustafsson states:

By clicking on an appropriate link [the user] downloads and starts a VRML browser dedicated to the production of holographic stereograms. He loads his own VRML file into the browser. He can then . . . find the desired position from where the 3D computer model will be viewed in the hologram. Objects representing the holographic plate can be inserted in the image, hence it can be decided which part of the image will be in front of the plate and which will be behind. He can previsualize the holographic image from any position and also see an animation representing a motion of the viewer in front of the hologram. (Gustafsson, p 171, bottom)

The Examiner equates the claimed image data with Gustafsson's VRML file. However, Gustafsson neither teaches nor suggests that the VRML file is in any way based on "the [customer-provided] source material," as required by claim 17.

Regarding the claimed "delivering the image data to an image processing station having an image processor operable to generate hogel data based on image data received . . .," the Examiner refers to control computer 12 of Kihara. Column 10, lines 29-39 of Kihara state:

During the subsequent light exposure operation, the data processor 11 sequentially reads out the image data **D4** of the parallax image string recorded on the recording medium 16 and sends out the read-out image data **D5** sequentially to the control computer 12.

During the light exposure, the control computer 12 controls the driving of a shutter 17 of the holographic stereogram printer device 13, a liquid crystal display device (LCD) 18 and a printer head, as later explained, based on the image data **D5** of the parallax image string sent from the data processor 11.

Thus, Kihara's control computer 12 is not operable to generate hogel data based on image data received, but instead merely controls the driving of a shutter, an LCD device, and a printer head.

Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is allowable over Gustafsson and Kihara taken alone or in combination. Claims 18-31 depend from claim 17 and are allowable for at least this reason.

Additionally, regarding claim 23, the Examiner refers to "Object from Web page, page 170" of Gustafsson. The applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 23 recites that the customer-based preview processor displays preview images downloaded from a server.

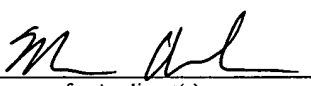
First, the applicants note that it is unclear precisely what the Examiner is referring to on page 170 of Gustafsson. Second, in the previously quoted portion of Gustafsson that specifically refers to previsualization, there is nothing teaching or suggesting that a preview processor displays preview images *downloaded from a server*. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 23 is allowable over Gustafsson and Kihara taken alone or in combination.

Additionally, regarding claim 24, the Examiner refers to “Animated photographs, page 169, 172” of Gustafsson. The applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 24 recites that the data acquisition processor receives at least input from a video source. First, nothing in Gustafsson teaches or suggests that Gustafsson’s VRML browser receives input from a video source. Second, the references in Gustafsson to animation refer to the previsualization of a hologram, not the data source. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 24 is allowable over Gustafsson and Kihara taken alone or in combination.

Additionally, regarding claim 25, the Examiner refers to “Photograph, page 169” of Gustafsson. The applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 25 recites that the data acquisition processor receives at least input from two dimensional printed material. Nothing in Gustafsson teaches or suggests that Gustafsson’s VRML browser receives input from two dimensional printed material. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 is allowable over Gustafsson and Kihara taken alone or in combination.

Additionally, regarding claim 26, the Examiner refers to “Add and remove data, page 170, e.g., adding an removing of light sources” of Gustafsson. The applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 26 recites compositing image data from different source material. The cited portion of Gustafsson merely refers to adjusting the light model of the VRML model. Such activity is clearly not “compositing image data” generally, and certainly not “compositing image data *from different source material*.” Accordingly, the applicants respectfully submit that claim 26 is allowable over Gustafsson and Kihara taken alone or in combination.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on <u>Feb 17</u> , 2004.	
 Attorney for Applicant(s)	<u>2/19/04</u> Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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